

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Commission on Disability Issues

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Honorable Mayor Alex Penelas
Honorable Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler and Members
Board of County Commissioners

Recommendation by the Commission on Disability Issues:

RE: That the County, as well as the municipalities, prioritize the use of the ½ penny sales tax from the People's Transportation Plan to address areas of inaccessibility within the County and the municipalities.

Whereas: The People's Transportation Plan is intended to better address the transportation needs of the citizens of Miami-Dade County utilizing dollars from a ½ penny increase to the sales tax.

Whereas: With the money raised from this initiative 80% will go to the county with the remaining 20% going to the municipalities.

Whereas: all of the vehicles in the County's Metrorail, Metromover and bus fleet are now accessible and it is the right of people with disabilities to use those vehicles even where Para transit services are also available.

Whereas: it is the policy of the County to encourage people with disabilities to use those vehicles whenever possible to save on Para transit costs but people with disabilities often can not use the bus system because bus stops are not accessible, sidewalks are not accessible, and curbs are not cut.

Whereas: those features of accessibility should have been provided, both within the unincorporated area and within the municipalities, to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act by January of 1995.

Whereas: the County has developed a project to make all bus stops in unincorporated Miami-Dade County accessible, including sidewalks and curb cuts on the same block, but the project is still unfunded.

Whereas: the County has developed a project to provide access from the Busway to destinations served in unincorporated Miami-Dade County, but needs additional funding.

Whereas: accessible bus stops, sidewalks, curb cuts and pedestrian signals within municipalities are needed to make the County's transit system fully accessible, but the County has no authority to provide those features of accessibility in the municipalities.

Whereas many municipalities have made little or no effort to provide those features of accessibility on their own and are continuing to ignore those obligations as they request ½ penny sales tax dollars for other projects that will not enhance transportation.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Commission on Disability Issues strongly recommends that any plans for the County or the municipalities to utilize the ½ penny sales tax dollars be required to include bringing bus stops and sidewalks, curbs and pedestrian signals into full compliance with the ADA, giving highest priority to bus stops and the sidewalks between the bus stops and the destinations served.

c. Danny Alvarez